VRS in Bharath Gold Mines Ltd.

1505. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) how many employees of Bharath Gold Mines Ltd. KGF, have opted for Voluntary Retirement Scheme;

(b) whether there is any demand for increase in the amount payable to them under VRS; and

(c) if so, the action if any, taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS, SPORTS AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) the Government had offered Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) in Bharat Gold Mines Limited (BGML) recently in January 2000 which was open till 31.3.2000. As per BGML recors, a total of 317 employees have opted for VRS against the offer.

(b) and (c) References have been received from various quarters from time to time for an increase in the VRS package to BGML employees. In 1997, the VRS package offered to the employees comprised ex gratia payment of 45 days' emoluments. However, in the VRS offered in 1999-2000, the employees are being given a better compensation package, which involves payment of a maximum ex-gratia for 60 months of salary/wage to all those employees who have completed not less than 30 years of service. This will be subject to the amount not exceeding the salary/wage for the balance period of service left (at the rate of monthly salary/wage at the time of voluntary retirement). Those who have put in less than 30 years of service are being paid ex-gratia for 45 days emoluments for each completed year of service subject to the amount not exceeding the salary/wage for the balance period of service left.